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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/801,983	03/07/2001	Bob Ebert	PALM-3524.US.P	5877

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WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO LLP
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EXAMINER

ZHOU, TING

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/801,983

Applicant(s)

EBERT ET AL.

Examiner

Ting Zhou

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed on January 12, 2004 have been received and entered. Claims 1-27 as amended are pending in the application.
2. It is noted that the third amendment to the specification on page 3 of the Amendment and Response to Office Action have not been entered since the line and page number of the replacement paragraph is the same as the line and page number of the second amendment to the specification. It is unclear to the examiner where the changes should be placed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the

reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1-2, 10-13, 16-19 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Vong et al. U.S. Patent 6,209,011.

Referring to claims 1 and 18, Vong et al. teach a method and system in an electronic device comprising a processor, memory unit, display screen and a notification system that alerts users of an event (column 1, lines 63-66, column 3, lines 62-67 and Figure 3). Specifically, this method and system is capable of receiving a first attention request (call) from a first application that is associated with a first record entry in the first application requiring attention from a user (notification programs are callable by applications through the application program interface to schedule events) (column 5, lines 38-42), automatically storing the first attention request in a memory, automatically sending a first request for information associated with the first record entry to the first application (as shown in Figure 4, the applications which require attention communicates with the notification manager, which is stored in memory, via sending and receiving information to and from memory; therefore, attention requests received by the notification manager would be automatically stored in memory), creating a notification dialog for displaying the information (column 4, lines 7-10 and also shown in Figure 7), wherein the first application generates and fills in the information in the notification dialog and automatically displaying the notification dialog on top of an on-screen display that is generated by a second application that is active (as shown by the example given in the reference, the user starts a calendar application and schedules an event for 8:00AM. Once the user saves this alarm,

the calendar application contains this saved notification information. It is then the calendar application that sends the notification to the notification manager, which in turn stores the scheduled information and displays the alarm on top of the current display on the screen, demonstrated by flashing and/or displaying a dialog box alarm containing the notification information while other applications are running) (column 5, lines 8-17, column 7, lines 14-31 and column 8, lines 16-30).

Referring to claim 11, Vong et al. teach a method of notification that alerts users of an event (column 1, lines 63-66, column 3, lines 62-67 and Figure 3). Specifically, this method is capable of receiving a first attention request (call) from a first application that is associated with a first record entry in the first application requiring attention from a user (notification programs are callable by applications through the application program interface to schedule events) (column 5, lines 38-42), automatically storing the first attention request in a memory, automatically sending a first request for information associated with the first record entry to the first application (as shown in Figure 4, the applications which require attention communicates with the notification manager, which is stored in memory, via sending and receiving information to and from memory; therefore, attention requests received by the notification manager would be automatically stored in memory), determining a plurality of outstanding attention requests, each associated with a corresponding record entry and a corresponding application, each of outstanding attention requests still requiring attention from user, the plurality of outstanding requests including the first attention request (ability to determine and handle a plurality of attention requests from multiple applications requiring attention from the user; this can also include the first attention request, which can be snoozed, and therefore, still requiring attention

from the user) (column 8, lines 20-24 and 31-33), creating a notification dialog for displaying the information (column 4, lines 7-10 and also shown in Figure 7), wherein the first application generates and fills in the information in the notification dialog and automatically displaying the notification dialog on top of an on-screen display that is generated by a second application that is active (as shown by the example given in the reference, the user starts a calendar application and schedules an event for 8:00AM. Once the user saves this alarm, the calendar application contains this saved notification information. It is then the calendar application that sends the notification to the notification manager, which in turn stores the scheduled information and displays the alarm on top of the current display on the screen, demonstrated by flashing and/or displaying a dialog box alarm containing the notification information while other applications are running) (column 5, lines 8-17, column 7, lines 14-31 and column 8, lines 16-30).

Referring to claims 2 and 19, Vong et al. disclose determining a plurality of outstanding attention requests, each associated with a corresponding record entry and a corresponding application, each of outstanding attention requests still requiring attention from the user, the plurality of outstanding requests including the first attention request (ability to determine and handle a plurality of attention requests from multiple applications requiring attention from the user; this can also include the first attention request, which can be snoozed, and therefore, still requiring attention from the user) (column 8, lines 20-24 and 31-33).

Referring to claims 10 and 27, Vong et al. teach a method and system in which the electronic device is a palm sized computer system (portable handheld computing device), as recited in column 1, lines 63-64.

Referring to claim 12, Vong et al. teach receiving a display request (notification request) to display a selected record entry associated with a selected attention request from the plurality of outstanding attention requests (request to display a notification alarm), automatically switching from the second application (user interface allowing users to schedule an event notification) to the third application associated with the selected record entry (notification mechanism responsible for displaying scheduled notifications), displaying the attention request (turning on the LED or displaying the dialog box) and providing user interface with the selected record entry through the second application, as recited in column 2, lines 24-26 and 52-58, and column 5, lines 8-18 and 37-42.

Referring to claim 13, Vong et al. teach automatically launching the third application (the notification application is automatically activated upon the occurrence of an event) and automatically sending the display request to the third application (after the user schedules an event, the calendar application automatically calls the notification application with the request), as recited in column 3, lines 60-65 and column 7, lines 14-30.

Referring to claim 16, Vong et al. teach receiving a request to suspend the plurality of outstanding attention requests, suspending each of the plurality of outstanding attention requests for a predetermined period of time (rescheduling the alarm for an additional five-minute period), reactivating the second application and displaying the plurality of outstanding attention requests after a predetermined period of time has elapsed in the second notification dialog (redisplaying the alarm after the five-minute snooze time has elapsed), as recited in column 8, lines 20-30 and further illustrated in Figure 7.

Referring to claim 17, Vong et al. teach invoking (displaying) an alarm simultaneously with the display of the dialog box and the alarm taken from a group consisting essentially of an audible alarm (audio device), a visual alarm (light), a vibrator (vibration device), a flashing LED and flashing the notification dialog, as recited in column 4, lines 4-15 and column 8, lines 16-30). This is further shown in the table given in column 6, lines 45-57.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3-9, 14-15 and 20-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vong et al. U.S. Patent 6,209,011 as applied to the claims above, and further in view of Chari et al. U.S. Patent 6,553,416.

Referring to claims 3 and 20, Vong et al. teach all of the limitations as applied to the claims above. They also teach the deactivation of requests when the user acknowledges the notification alert (column, lines 62-65). However, they do not teach the deletion of the deactivated request from memory. Chari et al. teach a method and system for managing alerts similar to that of Vong et al. In addition, Chari et al. further teach the deletion of notifications in

column 12, lines 10-28. This can also be seen in Figure 4A (reference character "438"). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having teachings of Vong et al. and Chari et al. before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the notification system and method of Vong et al. to include the ability to delete notifications, as taught by Chari et al. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to conserve memory space by deleting requests that are no longer active and in need of attention.

Referring to claims 4-5 and 21-22, while Vong et al. teach all of the limitations as applied to the claims above, they fail to teach the ability to request and view information regarding the attention requests in a list format. As can be seen from Figure 6, Chari et al. show the display of a log window containing the list of alerts that are still active. Therefore, if there are active attention requests, they can be determined and displayed on a display screen via a notification dialog that contains a list of these alerts, as recited in column 7, lines 37-46. Having the teachings of Vong et al. and Chari et al. before him at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the notification system and method of Vong et al. to include the list format display of active notifications, as taught by Chari et al. It would have been advantageous for one to utilize such a combination to allow the users to view and keep track of all active notification alerts together in a log file.

Referring to claims 6-9 and 23-26, while Vong et al. teach all of the limitations as applied to the claims above, they fail to teach the ability to request and view the attention request information in detailed format and the singular display of the details of the attention requests. As can be seen in Figure 5, Chari et al. show the display of one detailed notification dialog (alert screen) that contains all the details regarding the alert, i.e., the date, time, and description of the

alert. Therefore, this shows detailed information regarding a notification can be gathered and singularly displayed on the screen as a detailed notification dialog. It would then have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the detailed format of display for the alerts can be requested whether the plurality of attention requests contain every request except the first attention request, as is the case in claims 6, 7, 23 and 24, or only the first attention request, as is the case in claims 8, 9, 25 and 26. Having the teachings of Vong et al. and Chari et al. before him at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the notification system and method of Vong et al. to include the singular display of detailed notification dialogs, as taught by Chari et al. It would have been advantageous for one to utilize such a combination to allow users to view all the details related to an alert in a single window display.

Referring to claims 14 and 15, Vong et al. disclose all of the limitations as applied to the claims above. Specifically, Vong et al. teach clearing (turning off) the outstanding attention requests (notification alarms) once the user acknowledges he is aware of the notifications (via pressing the snooze button for example), as recited in column 8, lines 16-30. However, Vong et al. fail to disclose the steps of receiving a request to clear one or all outstanding attention requests, and clearing the selected attention request by deleting it from memory. Chari et al. teach a method for managing alerts similar to that of Vong et al. In addition, they further teach, in column 12, lines 9-28, receiving a request from the user to clear an attention request (delete an alert) and deleting that alert from memory. Specifically, they describe the ability to delete a plurality of alerts (column 12, lines 13-20). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Vong et al. and Chari et al. before him at the time the invention

was made, to modify the notification system capable of clearing outstanding attention requests of Vong et al. to include the ability to delete alerts, as taught by Chari et al. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to conserve memory space by deleting one or a plurality of alerts from the system.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed on 12 January 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant asserts that the invention discloses a first application jointly creating the notification dialog by generating and filling in information in the notification dialog while in the Vong et al. reference, the notification dialog is generated by the user, not the application. However, it is disclosed in the Vong et al. reference that the notification system is callable by the application to help schedule events, as recited in column 2, lines 24-26 and column 5, lines 8-18 and 37-42. Although the user does start the calendar application by inputting an event notification, once the user has input the event, the calendar application is completely responsible for the notification, and it is the calendar application, not the user, that calls the notification program to schedule and display events, as recited in column 7, lines 14-30.

Furthermore, the applicant claims creating a notification dialog for displaying information, wherein the first application generates and fills in the information in the notification dialog. The applicant asserts that in the Vong et al. reference, it is the user generating and filling in the information in the notification dialog. While the user does input information relating to

the notification and has the ability to choose options for the way the notification dialog is displayed, the actual information relating to the attention request that is displayed on the notification dialog (i.e. the time of the alarm) is generated and filled in by the calendar application, which sends the information to the notification manager, who subsequently, displays the notification dialog, as recited in column 7, lines 14-30. The user may be able to choose how he wants the time to be displayed (for example, displaying the time in a certain color), but he does not generate the dialog himself. The user starts a calendar application and schedules an event for 8:00AM. Once the user saves this alarm, it is the calendar application that contains this saved notification information. It is then the calendar application that sends the notification to the notification manager, which in turn stores the scheduled information and displays the alarm, as recited in column 5, lines 8-17, column 7, lines 14-31 and further illustrated in Figure 7.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

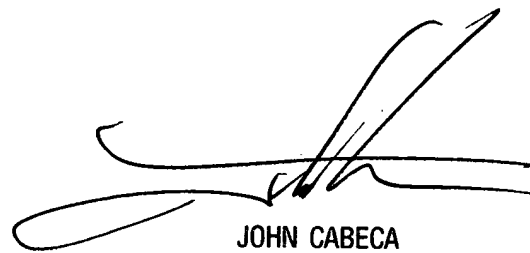
CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (703) 305-0328. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on 703) 308-3116. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

February 4, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JOHN CABECA', is written over a horizontal line.

JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100